

THE NEWS THE GOSS THE PICS THE SPORT

DAILY STAR

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2004

SIMPLY THE BEST 7 DAYS A WEEK 35p

VICTORIA SILVSTEDT

Her sexiest EVER pics

EXCLUSIVE
● Page 30

Pictures: LICKERISH



'Leave me alone ...I want to die'



**COPS PROBE
DRIVER DEATH
WISH AFTER
100MPH TRAIN
SMASHES
INTO HIS CAR**

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Jordan's telly shocker

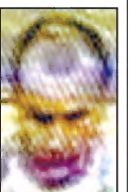
EXCLUSIVE
● PAGE 5

BRITAIN'S WORST SPONGER

EXPOSED

VIDEO spies exposed the amazing scams of Britain's biggest benefits cheat. Ex-miner Michael Miszczak pocketed £115,000 after claiming he was wheelchair-bound - but he was

filmed lapping up the good life on a trip to Australia, jet-skiing and riding a camel as well as sledging with his kids and lugging heavy DIY gear. Full story: Page 9



Two fight for life after new hell attack

SUICIDE
BOMBER
BLASTS
BLACK WATCH

FRONT LINE: A Black Watch combat vehicle in Iraq

by PADRAIC FLANAGAN
in Camp Dogwood

A SUICIDE car bomber left two soldiers in the Black Watch fighting for their lives in Iraq yesterday.

They were at the rear of an armoured Warrior combat vehicle when the driver of a car packed with explosives smashed into them.

The explosion blew the legs off one of the men and caused horrific limb injuries to the other.

Eyewitnesses said the men's lives were saved only because an Army doctor was nearby at the time.

Moments after the huge blast, shocked gunners unleashed a burst of machine gun fire at the wrecked vehicle.

Surge

US Black Hawk helicopter pilots swooped in to evacuate the badly wounded men to a field hospital.

The blast was heard five miles away at Camp Dogwood where commanders were overseeing a "surge operation" against rebel strongholds on the east bank of the Euphrates.

It was the second suicide bomb attack on the battleground in four days of their controversial deployment in Iraq's terrorist heartland, 25 miles south-west of Baghdad.

Last Thursday, three Black Watch soldiers and their Iraqi civilian interpreter died when a suicide bomber detonated a huge device at their vehicle checkpoint.

Yesterday, the two unnamed injured soldiers were undergoing life-saving surgery at a US field hospital in Baghdad.

They were expected to be transferred to a state-of-the-art military hospital in Germany within the next 24 hours, said a British Army spokesman.

Black Watch Captain Neil Tomlin said: "The families of both soldiers have been informed of the incident."

Later, members of the battlegroup came under mortar and rocket attack ten miles from the flashpoint city of Iskandariyah.

A British contractor was also killed by a roadside bomb in southern Iraq yesterday.



Pictures: PA/MURICE McDONALD

SHOCK: Black Watch soldiers hear news

Gypsy plan axed

JOHN Prescott yesterday refused to force councils to provide land for gypsy camps.

A Commons committee wants the Government to order local authorities to set up legal sites for travellers.

But Deputy Prime Minister Prescott's office yesterday said that the approach had been tried in the past and had failed.

The committee reported that more than 3,500 travellers were parked on illegal sites across the country.

And it said the unlawful sites led to anger and frustration in local communities.



REFUSAL: Prescott

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FOR A
BURTON

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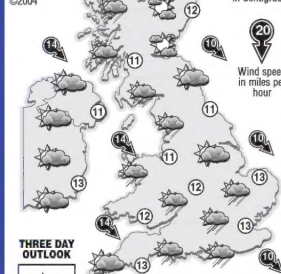
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INFO STATION

TODAY: Generally cloudy again over much of the United Kingdom with a few brighter spells in eastern Scotland. Showery or drizzly rain is likely across England and Wales to north-west Scotland.

OUTLOOK: Cloudy with patchy rain at times across Scotland to the northern regions of England. Less frequent shower activity in southern England with a few bright spells.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather.com ©2004

THREE DAY
OUTLOOKTuesday
ShowersWednesday
BreezyThursday
Bright

POUND ABROAD

Australia	2.43 dollars
Canada	2.22 dollars
Cyprus	0.83 pounds
Czech Republic	45.48 korunas
Mexico	21.10 pesos
South Africa	11.32 rand
Thailand	76.03 baht
Turkey	27.0729 lira
United States	1.85 dollars

EURO

Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland, Portugal, Spain € 1.43

ABROAD

Alicante	cloudy	19c	(66F)	Moscow	cloudy	5c	(41F)
Corfu	thundery	18c	(64F)	N. York	fair	10c	(50F)
Dublin	fair	12c	(53F)	Nice	fair	13c	(55F)
L. Angeles	showers	19c	(66F)	Paris	showers	10c	(50F)
Majorca	fair	16c	(61F)	Rhodes	thundery	21c	(70F)
Miami	fair	28c	(82F)	Rome	showers	15c	(59F)
				Tenerife	rain	19c	(66F)

E10m BIRTHDAY DRAW

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

5 17 23 26 42 48

Six tickets shared the £10million jackpot

LOTTO DAILY PLAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

2 7 12 15 17 23 27

No ticket matched all 7 balls for the £30,000 prize

SATURDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 6

2 26 29 36 39 40 10

Three ticket holders share the £7.8m jackpot

EXTRA: 01, 12, 31, 32, 39, 44 T-Ball: 02, 08, 16, 19, 20, (Tb 11)

No Extra winners. Three T-Ball winner get £250,000 each

WEDNESDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 3

5, 25, 33, 35, 36, 39 Bonus Ball: 43

One ticket won the £3.4m jackpot.

EXTRA: 3, 17, 31, 33, 39, 44 T-Ball: 7, 9, 17, 25, 27 (Tb 5)

No one won the £2.3m jackpot. One £250k T-Ball winner.

EURO LOTTO

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

6, 19, 25, 42, 48 Lucky Star Numbers 1, 7

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BABES IN THE WOOD

Annie

AMOROUS Annie loves to get back to nature by stripping off and frolicking through the forest wearing nothing but her woolly hat and mittens.

Obviously, the tasty 22-year-old from Colchester would normally hide her modesty with a few well-placed leaves – but with winter almost upon us it appears that all the leaves have fallen.



Picture: JEANY SAVAGE

HOT PICS TO YOUR MOBILE

DOWNLOAD a great topless picture of Annie direct to your mobile by texting STARBABE to 88833. See Page 39 for full details.

● Downloads cost £1.50 plus your usual network SMS rate. Calls cost £1.50 a minute. Average call length: One minute.



SMILES BETTER

Dan's put the fun back into my life, says Kerry

EXCLUSIVE

by MARIANNA PARTASIDES

LOVE-split jungle queen Kerry McFadden has told how new lover Dan Corsi taught her to smile again.

Kerry's steamy sessions with model Dan are helping put the painful break-up with husband Brian behind her.

And while curvy Kerry's private life is hotting up, things are looking good in her work life too. I'm A Celebrity bosses are desperate to sign up blonde babe Kerry, 24, to help front the new series with telly favourites Ant and Dec.

Smitten

They are just holding out to see if Kerry, who won the last series, will say yes.

The ex-Atomic Kitten beauty has enjoyed two weeks with Dan, 30, almost six years after they first dated.

Smitten Kerry even took DJ Dan up to Warrington, Cheshire, over the weekend to meet her mum and for more partying.

Kerry's PR advisor, Max Clifford, said: "They're seeing each other and he's cheering her up. She's still totally in love with Brian, that's for sure."

"But she's trying to cheer herself up, she's fond of him and it's working."

"She's still taking every day one at a time."

Mum-of-two Kerry has been devastated since singer Brian, 24, dumped her by phone in September.

And although the estranged couple still talk over the phone, calls often end in blazing rows.

Dan is the tonic to help her put her two-year marriage firmly in the past.

Kerry toughed it out Down Under earlier this



STEAMY SESSIONS: Kerry and Dan



BLAZING ROWS: Brian

year to be crowned Queen of the Jungle.

And show insiders say she would be perfect on the new series, due to start in two weeks.

One said: "We're all holding our breath to see if she's going to say yes."

May the farts be with you

ALIEN Yoda will blow fans away in the final Star Wars film – with a series of giant farts.

The tiny Jedi master suffers from shocking flatulence in Revenge Of The Sith.

A source said: "Yoda really does fart. It's a funny scene in an otherwise very dark and moody film."

The movie will hit the cinemas next May.

IT'S 00 EVANS

by TONY LEONARD

AN unknown actor was shaken and stirred yesterday after his audition to be the next James Bond.

Geraint Owen, 38, has played a Pc for the last eight years in Welsh-language soap opera Pobol Y Cwm on BBC Wales.

But now he's in the running to take over from Pierce Brosnan as 007.

All he has to do is see off the competition, which includes Colin Farrell,

Jude Law and Dougray Scott. Geraint was stunned when his agent rang to say he'd got an audition.

He said: "I have been an actor all my working life and to clinch the role of 007 would be amazing."

"But given the stars I am up against I'm not really expecting to be chosen."

He'll find out next month if he's got a second audition in Los Angeles.



BOND HOPES: Owen



Pictures: Z. TOMASZEWSKI/WNN

Wossy has incwredible night out

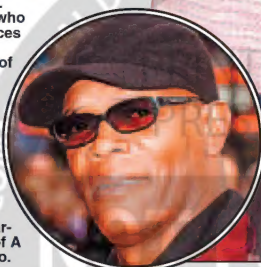
■ IS it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's superheroes The Incredibles – and Jonathan Ross.

He was quick to pose with the life-sized action stars at the UK premiere of new animated movie The Incredibles at Leicester Square in London last night.

■ Samuel L. Jackson, 56, who provides one of the voices for the film alongside Holly Hunter, 46, brought a touch of Hollywood to the West End by turning up in a dark suit, baseball cap and shades.

And Melinda Messenger, 33, wowed the crowds with husband Wayne and their two masked youngsters.

■ The film, which follows a family of superheroes who are forced to give up their powers, is the latest cartoon flick from the makers of A Bug's Life and Finding Nemo.



ACTION PACKED: Melinda Messenger and family, above. Top left, Jonathan Ross clowns about. Inset, Samuel L. Jackson, and, left, Holly Hunter

Hammer the gas guzzlers

■ by IAIN BURCHELL

DRIVERS of gas-guzzling cars which hog space on the roads face being charged more than other motorists.

Parents taking children to school and motorists using busy routes on summer weekends could also fork out extra.

The proposals are in a report by Leeds University which was commissioned by the Government.

It emerged as members of the Commons transport committee called on the Government to charge higher road tax on vehicles belching out the most pollution.

Price

Transport Secretary Alistair Darling reckons the charges are needed to slash mounting congestion across the country.

He says a road-pricing scheme – based on satellite-tracking technology – could be in place by 2014.

Plans submitted to the Department for Transport earlier this year would see motorists charged up to £1.34 a mile to use urban and trunk roads.

But researchers warned: "If the price signal is too strong it may stir up such opposition the scheme has to be abandoned."

I've got the Lott at last..

LAIID back Mick Grindle checked his Lottery ticket two months after buying it – and found he'd won £2.2 million.

The 46-year-old physics teacher spent weeks oblivious to his huge windfall.

He had scooped the prize on July 3, but only checked his ticket much later.

Staff at his local ASDA in Long Eaton, Derbyshire, told him he had won £220,000.

But it was only when he called Camelot that he was assured he had actually won a cool £2.2m.

Mick, who lives with his PE teacher wife Sue and children Lauren, 13, and Oliver, 11, said: "We don't want the money to change us."

HELLO, WE'RE BOOTING YOU OUT OF BRITAIN...

Asylum rejects to be told in person



PROMISE: Des Browne

FAILED asylum seekers are to be told in person they are being kicked out of Britain – to stop them doing a runner.

Ministers say the move will slash the number of immigrants who stay illegally after giving the authorities the slip.

Immigration Minister Des Browne revealed last night: "It is our ambition to do that for as many asylum applicants as possible." Currently,

■ by PAUL GREAVES

most asylum seekers are sent a letter by the Home Office saying if their application has been successful.

But hundreds vanish in days with many taking on false identities and finding work in the black economy.

And officials have to spend thousands of pounds trying to trace them so they can deport them.

The Government has confirmed that wherever possible it will now give decisions in person at special centres. And it hopes to speed up the

system which has been swamped by applicants since Labour came to power.

Mr Browne said the move was made possible by an increase in places at secure asylum centres such as Colnbrook, a new unit at Heathrow.

It is estimated that 270,000 failed asylum seekers who should have been kicked out are still living here.

But Shadow Home Secretary David Davis said: "Labour has form for making headline-grabbing promises to reduce asylum, only to quietly drop the target a little later."



DOUBTS: David Davis

Brits in pot raid

THREE Brits were held last night in Spain after more than four tonnes of cannabis was seized.

Police said the drugs were hidden in paint and were UK-bound.

Michael Kennedy, 41, his son Andrew, 20, and James Taylor, 19, all from Manchester, were arrested near Alicante.

Two Spaniards, a Moroccan and an Algerian were also detained after the cannabis, with a street value of £13.5million, was seized in two warehouses.

JORDAN BRINGS OUT PETE'S FEMININE SIDE

WHAT DO YOU SINK? Peter in the kitchen and, right, out shopping



TARGET: Star Catherine

Secrets of saddo stalkers

ONE in five Brits has a dark side that could turn them into stalkers, says new research.

Their sick worship of celebs could drive them over the edge like the US fan who allegedly stalked Hollywood actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, 35.

Extreme victims of the condition have poor mental health including depression, stress and low levels of life satisfaction, said Dr John Maltby of the University of Leicester who led the research.

He warned that the celeb worshippers devote their lives to following their favourite at the expense of dealing effectively with everyday events.

EXCLUSIVE ■ by TOM SAVAGE

HERE'S the proof that Kate Price has turned jungle lover Peter Andre into a doting 'house husband'.

The Aussie hunk is seen getting stuck into the household chores on the lovebirds' explosive new telly reality show.

As Kate - best known as glamour model Jordan - relaxes and messes around tasting her edible lip gloss, Peter, 31, finds himself chained to the sink. Kate, 26, even sends the Mysterious Girl singer to do the shopping while she puts her feet up with son Harvey.

An insider in the show said: "Even now Peter has relaunched his pop career, the bulk of their professional work is done by Kate."

Romps

"It makes more sense for Peter to pop to the shops. Plus, Kate spends a lot of time looking after Harvey."

The tell-all fly-on-the-wall show - called When Jordan Met Peter has followed the couple since they left the Australian jungle in February.

The series is scheduled to go out at 11pm due to Kate's swearing and steamy shower scenes - but producers are scratching their heads about whether they dare screen some X-rated sex romps.

Meanwhile the loved-up pair have headed off to enjoy a Caribbean cruise - with the cameras still in tow.

● When Jordan Met Peter is on ITV1 Friday at 11pm.



LADY OF LEISURE: Kate takes it easy

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Cop in plea to death driver

■ by IAIN BURCHELL
POLICE launched a suicide probe last night after witnesses saw a driver stop his car on a level crossing seconds before it was hit by a 100mph train.

An off-duty policeman is said to have tried to prevent the smash that claimed the lives of seven people.

There were also unconfirmed reports last night that the officer tried to reason with the car driver, who said: "Leave me alone, I want to die."

A First Great Western express carrying 300 passengers hit the silver Mazda 323 hatchback on an automatic level crossing and derailed near Newbury, Berks.

A witness said the young man was told to run for his life as he sat in the parked car on an unmanned level crossing near the village of Upton Nervet.

But the driver refused to move and the 5.35pm Saturday service from London Paddington to Plymouth smashed into the car moments later.

Police have not officially confirmed the man deliberately stopped on the crossing, but say that suicide is one of their main lines of inquiry.

The car driver and an eight-year-old girl were among the dead and 150 were injured after the train "sliced through the vehicle like butter".

A police source revealed: "There were several vehicles pulled up behind the doomed car and the policeman realised something was wrong."

"He ran up to the motorist and screamed at him to get out of the car as a train was likely to turn up at any moment."

Shocked

"Apparently the driver told him he did not want to get out but wanted to commit suicide."

"The officer was unable to do anything to drag him away from the car."

"It was a terrible situation to be in and he is extremely traumatised by what he saw."

It was the shocked off-duty officer who called the emergency services after the train smashed into the car.

The officer was driving along a lane near the crossing when he saw the saloon car waiting on it with the barrier still up.

Andy Trotter, Deputy Chief Constable of the British Transport Police, said: "An off-duty Thames Valley police officer saw the car go onto the level crossing and saw the barriers fall."

"The car remained on the crossing and he saw the train hit the car."

Mr Trotter revealed that the policeman tried to alert the signal box using the emergency phone, but the train sped through seconds later.

Investigators were yesterday examining the car wreckage to check whether it had stopped because of a mechanical fault.

But a Thames Valley Police spokeswoman said investigating officers had not ruled out the possibility that the car driver was attempting suicide.

Mr Trotter said police know



GET OUT... RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

the name of the driver, but were last night still trying to find out where he was from.

A passenger who escaped with minor injuries said rescuers told him the car had been deliberately parked on the line.

Duncan Freeman, of Taunton, Somerset, said: "The cause of the accident was someone who had parked their car across the rail track to try and commit suicide, without thinking of others on the train."

The train driver suffocated in his cab after it turned on its side and scooped up tonnes of earth. He was buried under the soil and his body had to be dug

out. The train's eight carriages were derailed in the smash and firefighters were still trying to free two bodies from the wreckage yesterday.

Serious

More than 30 people were seriously injured in the disaster.

A spokesman at the Royal Berkshire Hospital said they treated 61 passengers on Saturday night and 15 were still in the hospital yesterday. Four were "serious but stable".

The Queen yesterday sent a message of sympathy to the families of the victims. Rail union boss Bob Crow said level

crossings on high-speed lines should be scrapped and replaced by tunnels or bridges.

He claimed there had been no action following a warning from the Railway Inspectorate earlier this year that the crossings are the biggest single risk on the railway network.

"We want a public inquiry and feasibility study on taking the roads under or over the tracks," said Mr Crow.

Transport Secretary Alistair Darling has promised a public inquiry into the crash.

Eighteen people died at level crossings last year including five car drivers.

DAILY STAR SAYS

THE Berkshire train tragedy is a stark reminder of just how dangerous Britain's railways can be.

We have an appalling track record when it comes to rail safety.

But unlike past disasters, for once our crumbling rail network is not to blame.

It seems innocent lives

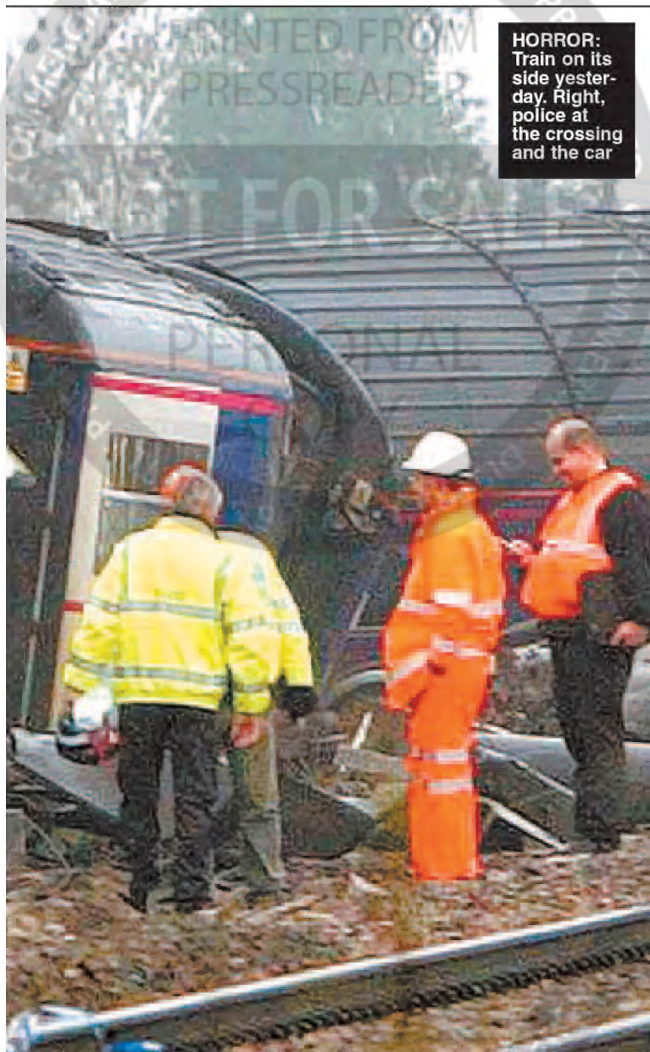
were lost because of the actions of one suicidal driver.

But could the horrific crash have been prevented?

The smash has raised serious questions over the safety of half-barriers.

Experts insist only full barriers can provide adequate protection.

What must happen now is an urgent review of all barriers to decide how effective they are.



HORROR: Train on its side yesterday. Right, police at the crossing and the car



SHOCK: Jon Stace with mum Michelle and his dad John, and, left, Steve and Doreen Hope

Survivor: The noise was terrifying

A MOTORIST who was one of the first people at the crash scene has described the horror he was met with.

Father-of-two Mark Penston was driving his family home after watching fireworks when he pulled up at the level crossing behind an off-duty policeman.

The officer said he had just seen a train crash. The pair went to investigate and stumbled along the tracks until they came to the wreckage of the train.

Mr Penston said: "There was a

by MARIANNA PARTASIDES

body by the level crossing. I think it was out of the car.

"The thing that struck me was the silence; no-one crying screaming or shouting.

"People were confused and no one knew what had happened.

"The magnitude of the destruction struck me. I have never seen anything like that before."

After directing several people away from the crash, Mr Penston, a financial advisor,

clambered into one of the carriages that was on its side.

He said: "There were two people trapped. A doctor said one of them was dead."

Mr Penston, father of six-year-old Alex and four-year-old Georgina, helped for two hours.

Twisted

Student Jon Stace, 21, was one of 150 injured passengers pulled from the twisted wreckage.

He had been on his way to a party in Newbury with pals.

"The noise was terrifying and we heard the sound of carriages running along the gravel."

Sam Jennings' parents Steve and Doreen Hope and her daughter Shannon, 11, were on the train but were unhurt.

Ms Jennings, from Devizes, Wiltshire, described how her father related the incident to her.

"He said the lights were off and the baggage had come falling down. He said he didn't realise what had happened until he came off the train."

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BIG RON HAS LESSONS IN ANTI-RACISM



COMEBACK BID: Atkinson

DISGRACED soccer pundit Ron Atkinson is taking race awareness lessons in a bid for a telly comeback.

He has enrolled in special classes in America for a BBC documentary show, Big Ron - Am I a Racist?

It shows the former soccer boss going to America's deep south where he is seen discussing civil rights leader Martin Luther King. The pro-

by NIGEL PAULEY

gramme features him attending classes aimed at countering discrimination.

Big Ron, 65, was fired from his ITV1 role in April after being heard describing Chelsea's French ace Marcel Desailly as a "lazy thick n****er".

Atkinson thought his microphone was off and British viewers heard nothing - but his remarks were broadcast overseas.

Others taking part include

black footballers Carlton Palmer and John Barnes along with political activist Darcus Howe.

Ex-Manchester United manager Ron, whose slip of the tongue has cost him £1million in lost deals, confirmed he had taken part in the classes.

Apology

It is understood Atkinson complains on camera of being treated unfairly.

He points out that Paul Gascoigne hadn't lost his job after admitting being a wife

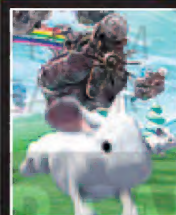
beater. Big Ron also moans that ITV1, the company that forced him to resign, later invited him to appear on I'm A Celebrity.

He's thought to have rejected the proposal.

Numerous black players have defended Atkinson, saying he is not a racist.

After resigning, he issued an immediate apology, claiming a "moment of stupidity".

But he was criticised by soccer pundit Ian Wright, who is believed to have refused to take part in the new show.



TOP TUNE: Honda ad

Fans are so fonda Honda Hate hit

THE Hate song from the new Honda telly and radio ads is set to be a massive chart hit.

Music fans can't get enough of the catchy toe-tapping tune which asks: "Can hate be good? Can hate be great? Can hate be something we don't hate?"

They've been hooked by the singalong chorus: "Hate something, change something, make something better."

Advertising bosses are ready to release it as a single and music experts are backing the song, which features the gravelly voice of best-selling American author Garrison Keillor, to reach No.1.

Calls

And an industry insider said: "There's no doubt it would be flying off the shelves as a single."

Honda has been flooded with calls from fans wanting to know more about the tune which is "sung in the key of Grrrr".

It was composed by one of the team at top London advertising agency Weiden and Kennedy.

The company has been stunned by the response since the animated ad promoting Honda's new diesel engine was aired a few weeks ago.

Don't miss



**STARS
TEXTS
LETTERS
Page 37**

Silver top for drivers

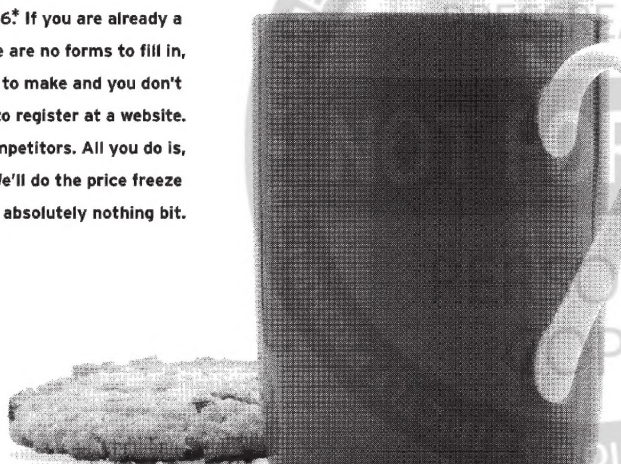
SILVER has overtaken blue as the most popular car colour in Britain.

Almost a third of new car buyers are now opting for silver, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

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SEQUEL:
Al Pacino
as Don
Corleone

Godfather is just 2 good

BRIDGET Jones is set to smash box office records again this week - but she'll have to beat Don Corleone and The Terminator for the title of best-ever sequel.

The Godfather: Part II, starring Al Pacino, was No.1 in the survey, with Terminator 2: Judgement Day in sixth. The movies.com poll read: 1 The Godfather: Part II, 2 The Empire Strikes Back, 3 The Lord Of The Rings: The Two Towers, 4 Aliens, 5 X-Men, 6 Terminator 2: Judgement Day, 7 Toy Story 2, 8 Batman Returns, 9 Back to the Future Part II, 10 Dawn Of The Dead.



HOTSHOT:
Arnold as
Terminator

SCAM OFF IT

Caron's £1m bid to live

■ by RICHARD WHITE
BRAVE telly star Caron Keating spent nearly £1million on her vain battle against cancer. Medical treatment cost 41-year-old Caron and her husband Russ Lindsay almost their entire fortune, he revealed. The former Blue Peter presenter - who died seven months ago - had no medical insurance and could not find a company to take her on, said showbiz agent Russ, 43.

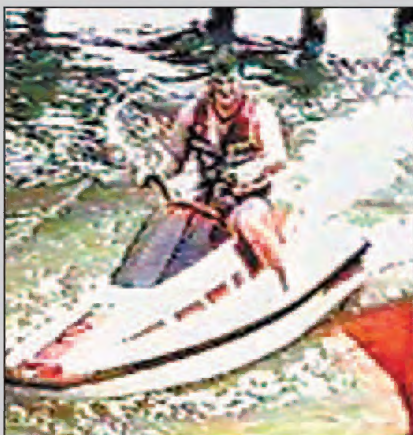
Sad

Caron, daughter of TV star Gloria Hunniford, left just £17,230 to Russ, and their sons Charlie, 10 and Gabriel, seven. She had refused to sign her will because she believed it would show she had accepted death. A family friend said: "It's so sad because had she signed her will, the small insurance policy she would have had would have been paid to Russ within a month of her death. "At the moment it doesn't look as though the family will get anything."

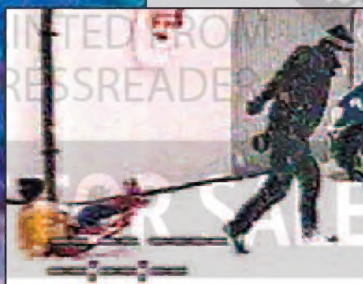
Peril in a used car

ONE in four used cars has potentially dangerous or illegal faults and 43% would fail an MoT test, says an RAC survey. "Everyone should know the serious risks in buying a used car just on the word of the vendor," said the RAC's Tony Noakes.

VIDEO SHOCKER: Mischczak in Australia, with no sign of the crutch he used at home, right



GOTCHA: The cheat has no problem shopping - or, below, sledging



Good life of scrounger who got £115,000 in disability benefits



NAILED: Sir Trevor

THESE are the startling pictures that nailed Britain's biggest benefits scrounger.

"Disabled" ex-miner Michael Mischczak pocketed £115,000 by claiming he was wheelchair-bound after a work accident.

But investigators spied on him as he lapped up the good life, jet-skiing and riding a camel on a holiday in Australia.

They filmed him lugging heavy scaffolding gear into his van.

And they found home videos showing him with his kids, pulling a sledge in the snow and chasing ducks around a pond.

Telly viewers will be shocked

■ by TOM SAVAGE

when they see the amazing catalogue of video evidence screened on Sir Trevor McDonald's ITV1 Tonight programme this evening.

The damning shots helped to land 42-year-old Mischczak in jail for a year after he admitted false accounting and obtaining benefit by deception.

Cheating

His trial heard how Mischczak, of Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, declared on his last benefit claim form: "I don't live any more, I just exist because of the people around me, my life ended in 1989 after my accident." The

married dad-of-four was given benefits totalling £350-a-week after claiming he no longer ventured out of his house because of his condition.

He insisted he needed constant care and attention from his wife to help him get through the day.

But in reality he was living a jet-set lifestyle.

He invested the £400,000 compensation payment he received after his 1989 accident in property and lived off his benefits.

His blatant cheating drove neighbours sickened by his scams to tip off the authorities.

Investigator Roy Paul said they tailed Mischczak for weeks, recording the incredible footage.

"We saw him shopping and visiting a DIY store and loading his van up with scaffolding equipment," said Mr Paul.

After pleading guilty to the offences, Mischczak was forced to sell his house to repay £115,411 in falsely claimed benefits.

Sick

The probe came as new figures show the number of people claiming incapacity benefit has soared to record levels.

Last month we told how one job centre worker revealed he would advise people to go "on the sick" as it meant they didn't have to go without cash if they missed signing on twice.

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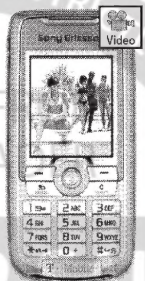
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VANESSA FELTZ

Twice a week
Monday & Thursday

We're all wild about Sharon

If your partner's generous enough to surprise you with cosmetic surgery vouchers this Christmas, don't deck him one and gallop away on your high horse.

First, feast your mince pies on the one-woman living, breathing advert for plastic surgery our whole nation's head over heels in love with.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present the nipped, tucked and head-to-toe reconstructed, hotter-than-July Sharon Osbourne – the woman who truly oozes X factor.

She'd be the first to admit she wasn't born an oil painting.

Sharon was sturdy, going on podgy, going on porky. She had a bulbous arse with a cellulite kind of face and breasts so droopy "you could sweep the floor with them".

In their wedding picture, Ozzy – not yet ravaged by class A substances – looks like a cherubic young sex god.

Sharon looks like a cartoon battleaxe Blackpool landlady who'd rather punch you in the head than part with one extra fried slice.

He's the pretty one. She's got a boat race like the back of the 263 bus.

So what does our heroine do? She brazenly nicks Ozzy as a client from her own louse of a father.

She presents him with three crazy, crackpot kids and a host of screw-loose dogs who do-do all over the Persian rugs.

She masterminds his career, nurses him through a monstrous assortment of addictions and, somewhere along the way, has her stomach filled with a rubber balloon that stops her snacking.

The pounds roll off and Sharon has herself recreated from scratch by a team of super surgeons until the old boot-faced rugby prop forward has disappeared and a gorgeous head-turner has magically taken her place.

Then this fearless, feisty woman has the staggeringly brilliant idea of throwing open the doors on all this mayhem and welcoming in the MTV cameras.

Most of us would be far too precious to allow total strangers to see us warts

and all. We'd insist on restrictions, clauses and editing rights, making sure the world would only get a censored, pasteurised view of us as we'd like to be seen.

Not Sharon. She's shameless. She tapped straight in to the fact that, in the current climate, people will accept you for whatever and whoever you are – as long as you are honest about it.

We hate hypocrites. We can't stand bull and, God knows, she plays it straight down the line.

It was all there, for our delectation. The bickering kids, spoiled rotten, but so brutally frank you couldn't help loving them. The cash, the

extravagance, the Technicolor swearing, the chaos, the nonsense, but most particularly, the love.

We love Sharon because she is a little love factory.

She loves Ozzy to pieces. And after all that bloke's put her through, that says one hell of a lot.

She adores her three bolshie kids.

Amy, the one who wisely (or foolishly, depending on your point of view) boycotted the show, plainly worships her.

She loves her doggies. She loves her X Factor act. She loved up Michael Parkinson and we love her right back.

Sharon Osbourne isn't the new Cilla, or even the new Oprah. She is the one and only foul-mouthed, plain-speaking, glammed-up phenomenon.

Who else but Sharon could say "It could only be me. When I get cancer, I get it up the bum," and have the whole country admire her bravery?

Who else would let her embarrassing treatment and painful recovery be broadcast to encourage other sufferers?

Who else would take on Simon Cowell and trounce him effortlessly with a single, withering word?

Sharon Osbourne is British by birth and British TV is crying out for her. She is fresh and off-centre and dazzlingly daft with a hard core of common sense and compassion.

There should be barriers at every airport stopping her from flying back to the States.

Do not forsake us, oh our darling. Your country needs you.

X Factor:
Pages
20 & 21



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FIT TO BUST:
Debra and
Shobna put on
great fronts for
Children in Need

Corrie got a couple of swells

WE'RE all busting to get a butchers of this Corrie babe – and we'll definitely be left asking for more.

Coronation Street lovely Debra Stephenson, 31, and Shobna Gulati, 38, are looking swell as they join their co-stars to recreate the musical Oliver.

The pair who play Frankie Baldwin and Sunita Alahan are looking hotter than ever as they help mark the 25th anniversary of Children in Need.

In fact, the girls have given us four more reasons to tune in to the telly extravaganza this year.



SORRY BABS.. IT'S Ender THE MITCHELL CLAN

SOAPER STAR EXCLUSIVE by NIGEL PAULEY

SOAP favourite Barbara Windsor will be told there's no longer a place in Albert Square for the Mitchell clan.

New EastEnders supremo Kathleen Hutchison is due to meet the 67-year-old to discuss her future in the show.

But highly-placed sources have revealed that the soap's new hatchet-woman will break the devastating news that busybody Peggy and bully-boy sons Phil and Grant have reached the end of the road.

An EastEnders insider claimed: "The show has to move on and sadly it will be moving on without the Mitchells for the foreseeable future."

"There's a strong feeling among executives that we need to concentrate on the future rather than the past."

"It is also a question of logistics and would need months of planning to get the storylines to gel."

"As far as I'm aware there are no such plans involving the Mitchells in place at this moment." The end of the Mitchells comes just four days after the Daily Star exclusively revealed that Dirty Den Watts, played by Leslie Grantham, was being axed.

It will come as a blow to Steve McFadden, 45 – who is on a year's break – and Ross Kemp, 40, whose "golden handcuffs" deal with ITV1 has ended.

Cloud

It also casts a cloud over the future of the other remaining members of the family – Billy Mitchell (Perry Fenwick) and Sam Hunter (Kim Medcalf).

But bosses say their jobs are safe for now.

Peggy and Phil were due to return in the New Year, along with possibly Grant and his ex-wife Kathy.

The reunion of the battling Mitchells was seen as a much-needed ratings winner.

But last night an EastEnders spokeswoman said: "We have been in talks with Babs about the future but we are concentrating on new characters."



OUT: Barbara and left, Ross Kemp



MA BAKER TOP OF FAMILY TREE



FRANKIE BOY: Mike Reid

PEGGY Mitchell (Barbara Windsor), is a Ma Baker. Her life revolves around her "boys".

She was married to Frank Butcher – actor Mike Reid.

Phil Mitchell (Steve McFadden) is the East End hardnut who is on the run after a bodged armed robbery.

Grant Mitchell (Ross Kemp), left the Square five years ago after faking his own death in a car crash to escape a drugs gang.

Sam Mitchell (Kim Medcalf) is a calculating businesswoman and gangster's moll. Billy

by OLIVIA MATTHEWS

Mitchell (Perry Fenwick) is the trouble-torn kid who has been treated like dirt by the rest of the Mitchell family.

Kate Mitchell (Jill Halfpenny), was a copper investigating Lisa's death before leaving EastEnders.

Lisa Fowler (Lucy Benjamin) shot Phil Mitchell and escaped to Portugal.

Kathy Mitchell (Gillian Taylor) is in South Africa.

She fled from boozy Phil to get away from his drinking.

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QUICKIES...



JENNIFER Lopez has been giving career advice out to cringe-worthy crooner **Ricky Martin**.

Both La Lopez and her husband, Latino warbler **Marc Anthony**, are helping Ricky after he ditched his former manager.

An insider said: "Ricky and Jen have been friends for years so it was no surprise when Ricky turned to her for help."

"Marc and Jennifer have advised him to go for several much sought after film roles."

We're getting worried now...

QUICKIES...



CHRIS Moyles has revealed he didn't lose his virginity until he was 21.

The Radio 1 golden boy has confessed he didn't have much luck with girls when he was a teenager – so decided to wait until he met someone special instead of having a "random shag".

He admitted: "I had girls as friends, but I didn't lose my virginity until I was 21. It got to the point where I was 19 and I still hadn't done it, so I thought, 'There's no point me losing it just for the sake of it, so I may as well wait'."

Erm, thanks for that.

HUSH HUSH

WHICH male pop star has a fetish for women's shoes? The studmuffin regularly invests in Jimmy Choos before parading around in front of "friends". And the lusty lad is known for his private parties with "pals" which usually include male dancers and models.

His legion of female fans would be gutted if they knew he was such a pervy dog.

THE GOSSIP

With KATIE HIND, LEIGH PURVES and AMY WATTS

SWINE
CHRIS WANTS CARLEY

GINGER whinger Chris Evans clearly sees himself and his new fancy woman as the showbiz equivalent of **Bet** and **Alec Gilroy**.

But the idea of him dressing up in leopard print slightly scares us to say the least.

Yes folks, the media mogul has asked the latest lady in his life, **Carley Ayres** to join him behind the bar, if his million-pound bid to buy his favourite north London pub is successful.

Giggle

Chris, 38, who has split from his wife **Billie Piper**, 22, after three years of marriage, has offered more than £4.5 million to snap up **The Steeles** pub, in Belsize Park and clearly can't wait to start pulling the pints.

One pal said: "It's been a difficult summer for Chris with Billie working away in Cardiff – they both tried but I think it was just impossible."

"But Carley has been a breath of fresh air for him."

"They both have

so much fun together. A real giggle."

"And Chris reckons she's a natural with people and has said he'd love to work with her behind the bar."

"Chris spends so much time in **The Steeles**, it seemed like a sensible option for him to buy it."

"And for him to be heavily

involved in the day to day running of it as well."

"He wants live music in there as often as possible and Carley also thinks it is a great idea."

"Chris wants to keep the place quite traditional and Carley feels the same."

"And they both want it to be a haven for locals."



GINGER'S ALE: Chris can't wait to start pulling the pints

Has Britney
landed with
a big bump?

BRITNEY Spears didn't do much to prevent speculation that she's pregnant when she went to see her little sister **Jamie Lynn** on the set of her American TV show in Malibu. Sporting a tight top over what looked rather like a baby bump, the 22-year-old didn't even light up a cigarette.

An onlooker said: "She stayed with Jamie for around three hours. As well as drinking an energy drink, Britney didn't smoke once. She was with her brother Bryan, who was being very protective towards her."

The newlywed has already admitted that she "can't wait to start a family" with her husband **Kevin Federline**. But despite her management denying she's having a child, she's clearly taking some time out from her work schedule.

The pop star is currently spending the time visiting family and friends. And she has also recently struck up a friendship with the vixen that is **Donatella Versace**.



KEL'S SET TO TIE THE KNOT TO CAP IT ALL

HAVE YOU GOT SOME JUICY GOSSIP FOR US?



HOST

AS LANDLADY

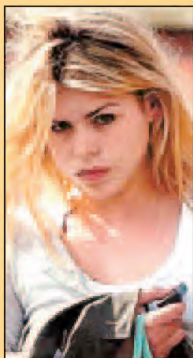


LUST ORDERS: Carley

Courting couple Chris and advertising exec Carley, 31, first met on a cookery school holiday in romantic Italy.

And Carley, 31, has already spent several steamy nights at Chris's swanky Belsize Park pad in north London.

Smitten Chris even drops



TIME CALLED: Ex Billie

her off to work in the morning.

But whilst Evans dreams of pouring the pints with his latest lover, it's his estranged wife Billie we take our hats off to.

The Dr Who actress is busy lying low and focusing on her acting career.

Good Girl.



FLAT-cap couple **Kelly Brook** and **Billy Zane** have given the biggest hint yet of a Christmas wedding. The 24-year-old and her glum-faced fella, 38, have booked a lavish holiday to wedding world Las Vegas, and Kelly's told pals she's "ready" to say "I do". An insider said: "During her visit to the UK, Kelly revealed she is very much in love with Billy and he is the one." And Billy – who doesn't like to talk about his private life – is said to be "smitten" with her. So you'd have thought they'd be a bit happier leaving Heathrow to head off to Los Angeles.

Picture: TIM MERRY



APPLE OF HIS EYE

THE Martin family Gwyn-d and bared being caught on camera during a walk in north London. But not for long. Chris, 28, thought it would be a good idea to play hide and seek with photographers and raced off with baby Apple in the pram, leaving super serene Gwyneth, 32, alone. And my, my, how his hair as grown. It's high time he made a trip to the barbers.

Picture: CALANAZZI

Colin's naked truth

COLIN Farrell charmed the pants off shoppers when he made a personal appearance at Barney's in New York.

And the Alexander The Great star was opening the window display which features costumes from the film.

Hunky Col, 28, told the crowd it was an "amazing" experience playing Al but that by the end he felt tired and drained having worn heavy body armour for so long.

So THAT explains why he walks around his apartment in the buff.

Picture: BLOOMBERG PHOTO.COM

THE BRONZE MEDALLIST

GOOD to see Georgie lass **Michelle Heaton** is back using the bronzer. The 24-year-old Liberty X singer donned a foxy backless black frock when she went to the National Lottery's 10th birthday party at the Tate Modern in London.

And you have to hand it to her for her socialising skills. The girl nearly goes to as many parties as we do.

Nearly.

SPOTTED

IN London: **Jonathan Ross** watching fireworks with his family at Battersea Park, **Sara Cox** shopping in M&S, Camden and **Matt Goss** with pals in the Queens pub, Belsize Park. **Heath Ledger** wheeling his suitcase through Heathrow, Terminal 1, **Jennifer Ellison** waving at fans from a clack Merc going north along the North Circular and **Sadie Frost** wearing a scarf around her head near Notting Hill tube station.

Call 020-7922-7453, e-mail thegoss@dailystar.co.uk or text DSGOSS to 61616

FIREBOMB NUTS TARGET BECKHAM AS HE TRAINS

DAVID Beckham was the target of a terrorist attack at Real Madrid's training ground.

Three cars in an underground car-park were set ablaze by explosive devices.

The flames spread rapidly around the exclusive Las Rozas neighbourhood on the outskirts of Madrid, leading to 115 homes being evacuated.

Several properties were damaged and vehicles left burnt-out.

England captain Beckham, 29, has a £5 million home nearby but it was not affected by the fire.

The blaze came five days after the Daily Star revealed Islamic extremists plotted to blow up Beckham and his Real Madrid team-mates.

Police raids found evidence that a gang, known as the Martyrs for Morocco, planned to drive a lorry packed with explosives into the Bernabeu stadium during a match.



TARGET: Becks in training

EXCLUSIVE

by TOM SAVAGE

And detectives in the Spanish capital said the arson attack was carried out by the same group.

Security around Beckham and other star players including Ronaldo, 28, and Zinedine Zidane, 32, had already been stepped up following the arrests of the 13 terror suspects across Spain.

Attack

A police source said: "This was a firebombing carried out by the group linked to those arrested last week."

"They were trying to attack the Real Madrid training ground but they did not get close enough."

Ines Ramos, a 37-year-old housewife living on the estate, said: "I spoke to a policeman and he said they'd been targeting David Beckham and the Real Madrid players."



ANGRY: 'Homeless' Best

Best's home defeat

SOCCER legend George Best has accused his estranged wife Alex of making him homeless.

He wanted to move back into the luxury Chelsea house where they used to live, but claims she rented it out without telling him.

And he can't go to their £750,000 marital home in Surrey as it is up for sale.

Best said: "I'm absolutely furious because she keeps trying to portray me as the villain. But she has made me homeless."

Divorce

"Our house in Chelsea has been rented out since we bought our home in Surrey and Alex knew I wanted to move back."

"But she has let the tenants extend their lease and now they're going to be there for months."

Best, 58, has been living at a health farm while he tries to negotiate a divorce settlement with Alex.

But he said: "It's time I got on with a normal life."

A spokesman for Alex denied she extended the lease without telling Best.

He added: "It's ridiculous for George to say he is being made homeless."



Real star quality

BECKS has landed his first movie role in his bid to become a Hollywood hero.

The England skipper, pictured yesterday enjoying time with son Brooklyn in a Madrid park, will star in the soccer drama Goal!

He'll appear alongside his Real Madrid team-mates

Zinedine Zidane and Raul.

The megastars have all agreed to

take part in the £54million football trilogy which follows the fortunes of a young Latin American soccer player.

Producer Mike Jefferies has spent months trying to encourage Becks to take part.

Last night Beckham, who we revealed last week wants to be a film star, said he was "delighted" to be involved.

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TACKLE TWO FAB PAGES OF PUZZLES



HOURS OF FUN
SEE PAGES 38-39

Phone fear for school

FEARS are growing over the safety of mobile phone masts after 27 were sited near a school.

Critics say phone firms are ignoring Government guidelines and hiding masts behind road signs.

The masts were found near Soho Parish School in central London.

A Government report four years ago said children could be especially at risk from radiation.

Tory MP Richard Spring said: "We could be storing up problems in our young."